

The Top 11 Worst Pork-Barrel Projects in the 111th Congress



1. \$1.9 million – Pleasure Beach, CT -- “Water Taxis to Nowhere”

After a fire destroyed the bridge to Pleasure Beach, CT, near Bridgeport and Stratford in 1996, the community was abandoned, becoming a ghost town. Despite crumbling buildings and a dilapidated amusement park, Congress approved \$1.9 million for a water taxi service to Pleasure Beach. Even the mayor of Stratford, James Miron, indicated a lack of local support.

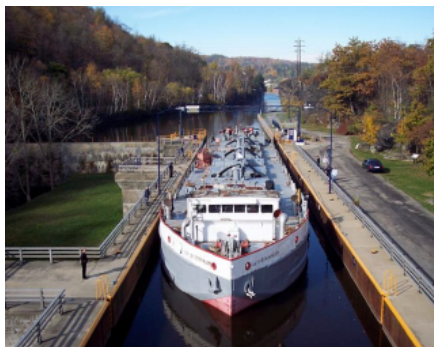
Source: [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), [Office of U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn](#)



2. \$3.8 -- Rochester, N.Y. – “Art Walk”

"ARTWalk is an interactive outdoor museum (where visitors) can find various pieces of public art, be it visual works, or practical things such as park benches or bus stops which are artfully designed. Art is even imprinted into the sidewalk!" The “art” includes park benches and drawings on the sidewalk.

Source: [State of New York](#)



3. \$3.1 million – New York State – Fixing a Boat

The Day Peckinpaugh is a 1921 canal motorship owned by the State Museum. According to a local news report, “The new federal grant will provide funds for the rehabilitation work necessary before permanent exhibits can be installed and the Peckinpaugh is ready for continuous tours, museum officials said.”

Source: [New York State Museum](#)



4. \$3 million – Georgetown – Bike Racks

The new bike racks are planned for neighborhoods where the average single family home costs \$1.2 million.

Source: [WTOP News](#)



5. \$1.5 million – Detroit – “Street-Scaping” around a casino

Ironically, while the stimulus bill prevented taxpayer dollars from being used on casinos, it did not preclude funds from being spent to improve streets around casinos.

Source: [Michigan.gov](#)



6. \$578,000 -- Union, New York -- homeless assistance for a town with no homeless people.

City officials say they didn't even ask for the federal stimulus dollars. When asked about the grant, a HUD official stated, "We hope and encourage these new grantees to develop creative strategies for the funding."

Source: [Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin](#)



7. \$550,000 -- Pawtucket, Rhode Island -- Skateboard Park

The “shovel ready” rule for stimulus funds led to this funding fiasco, while the City slashed 40 jobs and remained on the verge of bankruptcy.

Source: [Pawtucket Times](#)



8. \$500,000 -- Missouri -- Fish Food

The funds would be used to help defray the costs of feed for Missouri fish farmers.

Source: [Associated Press](#)



9. \$400,000 -- Jal, New Mexico, renovate a vacant building

Source: [Thomas.gov](#)



10. \$380,350 -- West Virginia -- ginseng and shiitake mushrooms

With three staff and \$380,000 in federal funds, they hope to contact 160 landowners or \$2,377 per contact.

Source: [WVGov.org](#)



11. \$90,000 -- Watsonville, Calif. -- Commercial Kitchen

The funds will equip and support the operation a shared-use commercial kitchen that will assist food service and food processing entrepreneurs.

Source: [Thomas.gov](#)